

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Specifically, favorable consideration of pending Claims 1-37 is respectfully requested.

Further, the Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Tran for his courtesy and cooperation during a telephone discussion on January 25, 2005. During that telephone conversation, Examiner Tran indicated that, regardless of the manner by which the Applicant responds to the sole rejection in the outstanding Office Action, a subsequent non-final Office Action would be issued since the Examiner intends to issue one or more new rejections of at least some of the pending claims under art that may or may not have been previously cited to the Applicant.

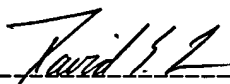
Thus, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-37 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 9-19 of U.S. Patent 6,658,469, and further requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Further, although the Examiner has indicated that new rejections are forthcoming, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: January 26, 2005



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